

Elsie G. Fowler
4360 Fleming Avenue, Apt. A
Oakland, CA 94619

May 18, 1999

4476 '99 MAY 20 A9:59

Mr. Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management
Docket #98P-0203/CP
FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Dr., #1-23
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

Forced molting, a method used routinely in egg production, is brutal. Many of the hens perish. I urge the FDA to ban this practice.

When egg production declines, the hens are starved and denied water for up to 10 days. This forced molting shocks the hens into losing their feathers and starting a new laying cycle. Up to 25% of the hens do not survive the trauma and stress. Considering the many other hardships they undergo, it is no wonder so many die:

◆ Up to 5 hens are crowded for life in a cage with the floor space barely more than the size of a record album cover.

◆ Barely able to move, they strike out at their cagemates constantly.

◆ Most, if not all, birds suffer Caged Layer Fatigue, which causes the birds to draw minerals from their bones and muscles. Their bones become brittle, often causing them to break.

It may be difficult for the industry to think of a hen as something more than an egg machine. But it is a feeling being that deserves respect. Please help reform the egg industry by banning forced molting. I am interested in learning your views on this subject.

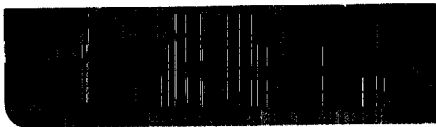
Sincerely,

Elsie G. Fowler

Elsie G. Fowler

98P-0203

C 1441



Mr. Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management
Docket #98P-0203/CP
FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Dr., #1-23
Rockville, Maryland 20857

